

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee (DAT)
January 20, 2015 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on January 20th, 2014,
at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Cheryl Anderson, Chair
Denise Heap
Mark Tompert
Lu Ann Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT
Karen Frias-Long

STAFF PRESENT
Anne Gervase
Ruth Giese
Paul Thomas

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the December 16th, 2014 DAT meeting.

Ms. Heap made a motion to approve the December 16th, 2014 DAT meeting minutes, Mr. Tompert seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear update, discuss and take action on periodic update from the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, and/or are homeless.

Anne Gervase and Paul Thomas provided an update on the Mesa's new Veterans Court which is scheduled to start on February 12, 2015. An initial intake identifies whether individuals who have served in the military select to go through the Veterans Court. A Veterans Justice Officer (VJO) is assigned to work with individual. A pro tem judge who is also a retired general will handle the cases. Cases will be heard initially twice a month (2nd and 4th Thursday).

The DAT thanked Mr. Thomas and Ms. Gervase for their hard work. It was also recommended that the City recognize their work in some way such as an employee recognition award. Ms. Giese responded that she will forward their request to city staff.

5. Hear, discuss and take action on planning for March 24, 2015 town hall meeting to educate the community on mental health and substance abuse issues.

The team discussed preparations for the March 24th, 2015 conference and reviewed the draft agenda. Ms. Anderson advised that Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care and Mesa Prevention Alliance are partners. There will be four panel members to discuss their own stories of living with their diagnosis. The Mesa Fire Fighters Association will be providing beverages. The conference will be held at March 24th, 2015 at Marc Community Resources, Inc. DAT members agreed to create an Eventbrite listing and prepare a press release. Ruth Giese will assist with sending out the press release and putting the event on the city's calendar and social media. Ms. Anderson stated that she will provide language to add to the flyer describing the purpose of the meeting.

6. Hear update and discuss the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Diversity & Neighborhood Outreach Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85201 (480) 644-5034*

Ms. Anderson stated that a representative from Marc Community Resources, Inc. has confirmed to present on the matter at the board meeting in January.

7. Hear and discuss ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

Discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

8. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th, 2015 at 6:00pm.

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator